

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket RI 02860

Minutes

I Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-arrived at 6:10 PM; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke-Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Patti Di Censo, Secondary School Performance Officer; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator; Ms. Margaret Baker, Assistant Business Administrator; Mr. Stephen M. Robinson and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the School Committee.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Celebration/Recognition

The Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, recognized Mrs. Marion Philips, an ESL teacher at Charles E. Shea Senior High School. Mrs. Philips was a recent recipient of the Golden Apple award that is presented by the Commissioner of Education in conjunction with WJAR, Channel 10 and Hasbro to outstanding teachers based on nominations. Mrs. Philips was nominated by her friend Elizabeth H. Ingraham.

Mrs. Philips: I humbly accept this award. I love Shea and the diverse population. I share this award with the support staff and the rest of the teaching staff, really with everyone; the School Committee, Superintendent Cylke, Central Administration, the Special Education staff. We are all part of each students' success and I'm so proud of Shea receiving this award. Thank you all so very much from the bottom of my heart. Thank you.

Ms. Di Censo: I'm here representing Dr. Lord who couldn't be here this evening. You got a golden apple, but you are a golden raider at Shea High School. Ms. Di Censo presented Mrs. Philips with flowers and a crown.

The Slater Junior High School Mock Trial Team was recognized for winning the State Championship. Dr. Jacqueline Ash, the Slater Principal and the teachers, Peter Lehourites and Nicole Nolin were also recognized.

Mr. Lehourites: As you know were here two years ago and showed you what we do. Mr. Araujo's daughter was on the team twice. It takes a lot of time and the students have to stay after school until 4:00 PM. The students are very dedicated and work during school vacations. They are among the hardest workers and junior high is a little less competitive but after all these years we finally came in first place this year.

The Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, acknowledged the parents of the students in the audience and thanked them because without their support they wouldn't be able to do this. Success shows what you can do here in Pawtucket. We'll you here next year same time, same

place.

Mr. Araujo: Congratulations!

III Student Representatives

a. Charles E. Shea

None

b. William E. Tolman

None

c. Jacqueline M. Walsh

Michael:

-This Thursday is JMW Honors night. The seniors have worked hard the last four years.

-On Saturday, we have prom at the Rhode Island Yacht Club. -

-May 20th is our portfolio presentations.

-On May 31st is the Pawtucket Teen Hall of Fame.

-On June 1st is the senior dance contest.

-June 5th is graduation. It's finally here! Students will be attending Rhode Island School of Design; University of Hartford; Brandies; Wheaton; Rhode Island College. Everyone in our senior class is going to college.

IV Public Participation

None

V Executive Session

The Chairman commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5 (a) (1) job performance, character or physical mental health of the General Laws of the State of R. I. for the

purpose of discussing or acting upon: school committee interview of Tolman High School Principal Finalist and to seal the executive session minutes.

Ms. Bonollo moved to recess to executive session. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session from 6:25 PM to 6:53 PM.

VI Reconvene to open session

The Committee reconvened to open session at 6:58 PM and it was called to order by the Chairman.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

VII Report out vote(s) of 5/15/12 executive session, if applicable

The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to be reported out of executive session.

The Clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

VIII Acceptance of previous meetings' minutes: 3/16/12; 3/17/12 and 4/10/12 (Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting)

Mr. Spooner moved to accept and approve the previous meetings'

minutes of 3/16/12, 3/17/12 and 4/10/12 Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: As an elected official, I have attended every regular meeting and when there is a meeting I don't think members of the public should be listed in the minutes announcing when they show up. I wouldn't necessarily say that it was a meeting but instead a professional development conference that we were not required to attend and I don't want them changed, but I don't appreciate being marked absent.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

X New Business-Action Items (This item was moved ahead at the Chairman's request without opposition)

a. Recall of Teachers

Ms. Mercer: At this time I would like to recall eighty eight (88) teachers for the 2012-2013 school year. All but nine (9) of these at this time will be returning to their positions. Those that are involuntary transfers we'll let them know. You have to remember right now it's based on the enrollment and the schedules that we have in the contract we do have the option of involuntary transfers. These teachers are now going to be recalled for the 2012-2013 school year:

Katherine Seals, Social Worker, Tolman

Alberto Gomes, Social Worker, Varieur

Leah Hoffmann, Social Worker, Little

Gary Magnotta, Technology, Tolman

Bridget Boucher, Special Education, Goff

Tracy Gagnon, Speech Pathologist, Fallon
Kerry Needham, Grade 6, Greene
Diane Treichler, Reading Literacy Coach, Administration Building
Steven Ferreira, Grade 5, Winters
Melissa Caraballo, Special Education, Baldwin
Sandra Santos, Kindergarten-ESL, Cunningham
Kyle Deschene, Grade 6, Winters
Wendy Riordan, Reading, Baldwin, Involuntary Transfer
Toni Autiello, Special Education, Goff
Elizabeth Donabedian, Reading, Baldwin, Involuntary Transfer
Grainne Phelps, Math, Shea
Nicole Lynn Ellis, Special Education, Tolman
Edward Kostka, Social Studies, Shea
Ingrid Calderon, Spanish, Shea
Heather Rodrigues, Social Studies, Tolman
Jaime Welch, Social Studies, Shea
Angelo Gentile, Social Studies/ESL, Goff
Christopher Souza, Social Studies, Tolman
Deborah Farrar, Special Education-Self Contained, Transition Program
Glenn Hopkins, Jr., Social Studies/ESL, Shea
Alison DuBray, Special Education, Curvin-McCabe
Lois Flanagan, Social Studies, Tolman
Shannon San Bento, Grade 1, Fallon, Involuntary Transfer
Brittany DiOrio, Kindergarten, Greene, Involuntary Transfer
Lisa Barrett, Grade 5, Cunningham

Karen Hammarstrom, ELA/ESL, Shea
Lynn Bleau, Grade 1-ESL, Fallon
Kerri Mendez, Kindergarten, Baldwin
Kerri Mooney, Kindergarten-ESL, Curvin-McCabe
Kelly Bairos-Pereira, Grade 3, Fallon
Deona Pace, Kindergarten, Little
Bree Ann Schebel, Math-ESL, Shea
Matthew Bergeron, Math, Shea
Nadine Simmons, Grade 4-ESL, Baldwin
Ingrid Izzi, Kindergarten-ESL, Greene
Konstantina Sampalis, Math, Jenks
John Martinelli, Science, Slater
Laura DiMaio, Science, JMW
Valerie Marchetti, Science-ESL, Shea
Julie Seitsinger, Grade 3, Baldwin
Jessica Cooke, Special Education, Varieur
Ruth Donth, Kindergarten-ESL, Winters
Lori Pennachchia, Grade 1, Greene, Involuntary Transfer
Jennifer Lemay, Kindergarten, Cunningham
Kendra Melise, ELA, Slater
Samantha Robinson, Speech Pathologist, Curvin-McCabe
Marie Arbelaez, Grade 6, Winters
Lisa Wagoner, Grade 6, Little
Mary Catherine Wildenhain, Grade 6, Involuntary Transfer
Karen Sarver, Kindergarten (Co-Taught), Cunningham
Elizabeth Chalmers, Special Education-Self Contained,

Curvin-McCabe

Carmina Rocha, Music, Greene

Brenda Reid, Special Education-Self Contained, Little

Jennifer McCaughey, Special Education, Shea

Carmela Valcourt, Grade 1-ESL, Baldwin

Lisa Sweet, Speech Pathologist, Cunningham

Kendra Pires, Grade 2, Baldwin

Lori Wilbur, Special Education-Self Contained, Shea

Whitney Goduto, Kindergarten, Baldwin, Involuntary Transfer

Patricia Jaspers, Grade 1-ESL, Curtis

Nicole Desourdy, Kindergarten, Winters, Involuntary Transfer

Paul Semenkow, ELA, Goff

Kristen Enander, Grade 2-ESL, Baldwin

Kerri Duffy, Per-School, Fallon

Christopher Reynolds, Math, Tolman

Joanne Doyle, ELA, Slater, Involuntary Transfer

Justin Cardinale, Special Education-Self Contained-Behavior, Tolman

Kelly Conlon, Music, Goff

S. Allison Mowrer, Grade 6-ESL, Baldwin

Lydel Hall, Music, Winters

Amber Kimbrell, Science-ESL, Goff

Nicole Carrara, Dance, Jenks

April Valois, Psychologist, Greene

Heather Hopkins, Special Education, Tolman

Sara Courtemanche, Grade 4-ESL, Cunningham

Jorge Torres, Math-ESL, Goff

Alicia Migliore, ELA/ESL, Slater

Michael Gavin, Math, Slater

Colette, O'Brien, OT, Baldwin

Lauren Estrada, Math, Tolman

Colleen Green, Librarian, Potter-Burns

Christine Murphy, Librarian, Fallon

Neil Letendre, Music, Baldwin

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the recall of the eighty eight teachers (88), nine (9) of them as involuntary transfers to be notified of their positions based on enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year as recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Mercer. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Spooner: Ms. Mercer, good job.

Mr. Coughlin: Could you tell us again what an involuntary transfer means?

Ms. Mercer: In other words due to the enrollment, we might not need a grade two, but if another position opens up in that building in grade one that teacher that held the grade two position and is involuntarily transferred and there is something in that building that they are certified for they can take that position. If not, they go to the teachers' pool. In their grade their position is no longer available.

Mr. Coughlin: But they're guaranteed a position?

Ms. Mercer: Yes.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

b. Appointments

Mrs. Cylke: This evening I'm asking the Committee to approve two

custodial appointments; Paul Goulet at Elizabeth Baldwin and George Soccio at Tolman High School.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the appointment of Paul Goulet, Custodian at Elizabeth Baldwin Elementary School and George Soccio, Custodian at Tolman High School. Ms. Nordquist seconded. Voice vote carried all in favor.

b. Appointments

Mr. Tenreiro: We just left the interview with Mr. Savastano and are very pleased with what he is ready to bring to us.

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the appointment of Mr. C. Christopher Savastano to the position of Principal at William E. Tolman Senior High School. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Mr. Tenreiro: Congratulations, Mr. Savastano.

Mrs. Cylke: Welcome to Pawtucket. I want to pledge my support as well as the Deputy Superintendent's and Patti Di Censo's. Congratulations.

IX Informational Item(s)

a. Adequacy Lawsuit Update

Mr. Robinson: Pawtucket and Woonsocket are suing the State of Rhode Island over the funding formula. It is our position that the formula is not constitutional. It does not treat Pawtucket and Woonsocket children in the same fashion that it treats children from other districts.

It is the premise of the lawsuit that it should not be an accident of where you are born in Rhode Island as to what the resources and the

quality of the educational product that children have. We believe that this lawsuit is the civil rights issue that children have today.

In the early 90's, then Governor Sundlun at the credit union crisis, cut back every district in the State of Rhode Island 10%. At that time we had a very equitable formula called the foundation aid formula that factored in many issues: property value, income, how many children are in poverty, how many children are ESL; things of that nature. Poor districts get more state aid to do just that. By cutting back 10% on every district, it had a disproportionate effect on every poor district. Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket who get most of their aid from the state. For East Greenwich and Barrington it was nickels and dimes, but for Pawtucket, it was a crippling blow.

The School Committee at that time directed me to explore a lawsuit which would was brought and we had about a three week trial in front of Judge Needham. We were successful in front of Judge Needham. He ruled in our favor. But in 1995, the Supreme Court overturned that decision.

Because of the lawsuit, they did away with the formula. But the legislature did pump more money into the poorer districts even though there was no formula. One of the things they used is student population but they have a "hold harmless provision." They didn't take into effect demographics. Some districts were getting richer and some were getting poorer.

In 1997 the student incentive initiative act acknowledges that the local cities and towns rely on the local property tax. Certain communities because of low tax capacity in a high tax effort are unable to

appropriate to support funds for core instructional programs. The General Assembly also recognizes the need to reduce inequities in resource distribution in cities and towns as well as among the state's cities and schools.

In 2004 this is what they pledged. All children should have access to an adequate and meaningful education regardless of their residence or economic means. A school funding system should treat school tax payers equitably; limit the portions of school funding by property taxes and establish sufficient cost control on school spending.

The intent of this chapter is to promote a school spending system in Rhode Island predicated on student need and taxpayer ability to pay. A new school funding system in the state should promote educational equity for all students and reduce reliance on the property tax.

A state education funding formula with a student population needs driven. In 2004 they said, students eligible for free and reduced lunch, those participating in language assistance programs and special education. What they were saying legislatively is these certain factors we have to consider in a formula.

For a long time we were one of only two states that did not have a funding formula. When Pennsylvania passed one, we were the only state that did not have one.

It's important to note that throughout the country, legislatures have wrestled with what is the cost to get an adequate education to children? They have commissioned experts who come in and do adequacy studies. They come up with what an average annual cost

would be per pupil to provide an adequate education. Rhode Island went out to bid and hired a firm from Colorado and that is the Wood Report. This report determined in 2006 it would cost \$9,500-\$10,000 per child, per year.

The General Assembly also set up a technical advisory group to review this report and to develop a funding formula. That group said \$10,607 per pupil for 2008-2009. That was the recommendation and there was no action taken.

Representative Edith Ajello from Providence said let's look at the \$600M for education in the state budget and recommended \$10,600 per pupil. Had they taken that money and divided it equally that would have given Pawtucket \$12M. That bill was submitted and no action was taken.

In February, 2010, we filed the present action. Shortly after filing it, the legislature debated and enacted the present funding formula. In 2006, they said you needed \$10,600 per year. The new formula enacted in 2010 says you need \$8,333 per student. How does it become 25% less expensive to educate a student in two more years? We amended the complaint to reflect continued inadequacies of the new funding formula.

In August, 2011 the State moves to dismiss. In April of this year we argued that case in front of Justice Vogel (to dismiss) and are awaiting a decision.

In February, 2010, the Commissioner of Education issued a press release regarding the funding formula.

Mr. Samuel D. Zurier, Esq. assisted Mr. Robinson with this process

and PowerPoint presentation.

They believe there were two political compromises that resulted in the formula.

1) There was to be no new money into the educational pot from the State.

2) We have to find a way to hold Newport harmless because of the Senate leadership.

Over the years there is no formula and Newport's population is going down and they were getting about \$10M per year. If you look at the average per pupil, they get about 40% more than Pawtucket does.

Let's look at the numbers:

2009-10 both the state and local funds totals \$10,748.

2010-11 it drops to \$10,499.

2011-12 it is \$10,785, only \$40 more than 2009 with the RIDE Formula.

Using that same RIDE formula from 2016-20, it will increase to \$12,364. The state average in 2009 was \$13,900. If an adequate funding formula was enacted in 2007 it would be at \$15,090.

State's contribution to overall cost:

| | Federal | State | Local |
|----------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| USA Average | 11.3% | 47.5% | 44.1% |
| Massachusetts | 7.6% | 41.0% | 47.2% |
| Rhode Island | 12.4% | 28.8% | 60.6% |
| 2007 Funding Formula | 12.4%* | 38.5%* | 49.1%* |

*This is the third lowest state share in the country.

Source: National Education Association: Rankings and Estimates, 2011-12

***The 2007 Formula called for a 44% State/56% local split.**

Mr. Tenreiro: Most states think education is a constitutional right. Would Rhode Island's argument be that education is not a constitutional right?

Mr. Robinson: In the written document submitted to the court by the defendants in this case, they have argued that there is no constitutional right to an education in the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Tenreiro: It's amazing that book, "Five Miles Away, But a World Apart", and I think of where my house is so close to Seekonk, Massachusetts and to hear the difference in funding.

Mr. Robinson: There was a case in Massachusetts when we tried our first case, the McDuff case. In Massachusetts, they won their case in the Supreme Court. At that time Massachusetts and Rhode Island were fairly close in student achievement, contributions and so on. From then to now you look at the graph and Massachusetts is the highest rated educational system in the country. I submit it's because they won their lawsuit. Rhode Island has been flat or on the decline because of student achievement. They don't consider building maintenance part of the formula. They don't consider busing part of the formula, even though it's required by statute.

This is what they call the "market basket from hunger:" the Rhode Island average is \$13,660. They are saying \$8,295 should be the number.

Mrs. Cylke: If we look at the state average and what Pawtucket gets. The difference is \$1,240 per student. That amount times 8,500 students equals \$10,500,000. What would Pawtucket do with right

now with \$10,500,000?

Mr. Robinson: I would add to that because of the “at risk” populations that we have children who can’t speak English are at risk.

Children who are in poverty are at risk. Children who live in communities like Pawtucket need to have more than the average. It takes more resources to educate those children.

English Language Learners: we have the lowest Hispanic test scores in the country in Math in Rhode Island. The Commissioner’s formula says we don’t have to give any money for English Language Learners. We’ll take care of it with the quadratic mean.

Twenty years ago in New York State they lost their lawsuit. Ten years later they brought it again, but did something different. They created the nonprofit group called the “Campaign for Fiscal Equity.” This group went all over the state of New York building consensus, building support so over time major corporations said this is right. My hope is we can build community support from the AFT and all of the stakeholders who need to say this is what needs to happen.

Follow the Money:

What did they do by quadratic mean? Newport has some poverty, but not English Language Learners. They also have more taxable property than any other community in the state. They have the fiscal capacity to support their education. By factoring this quadratic mean on top of your formula, they’re able to funnel \$9M to Newport. The money you should have had went to the richest communities in the State.

Mr. Spooner: How does Little Compton do it? They only have one

school?

Mr. Robinson: They bus their students to another community and pay tuition instead of hiring more teachers. If the other community only has fifteen students per class, it's easier to add five more students than to hire another teacher.

Under the quadratic mean you receive \$71.9M in State Aid. If they did not use that quadratic mean, you would have received \$73.4M.

How much taxable property does a community have to fund education? How much does a community actually tax itself? Pawtucket taxes itself harder to give its children less.

No matter how hard Tom, Maggie and the Superintendent try to do the best for the students of the City of Pawtucket, it's not a fight between the Committee and the City Council. It's a lack of State support.

We anticipate a decision from Judge Vogel within the next six weeks and are hopeful it will be a favorable one.

If we win, we will have a trial. I will put on evidence. Your Superintendent will testify, Tom might testify, Principals might testify. There will be experts. It will be a full blown trial.

Mr. Noonan: I believe strongly that this is a lawsuit that had to be brought. We have a moral obligation to bring this lawsuit on behalf of our students. If this does get dismissed I'm ready to vote to appeal this right now because this is something that must be brought. Thank you.

b. Transformation Grant Update

Mrs. Cylke: Last Friday I was contacted by Commissioner Gist and she informed me that they had a balance of about \$184,000.00 in a

RIDE PSI (Progressive Support and Intervention) fund. She was well aware that in our original SIG Grant request they denied \$127,500 for laptop computers. I met with our team and we moved that money into our transformation efforts. The \$184,000.00 can only be used for laptops and technology support.

c. November Facilities Bond Question Update

Mrs. Cylke: At the last meeting the Committee voted to increase the bond from \$3M to \$5M. We went before the City Finance Subcommittee and they voted 9-0 to approve it. Later that evening the City Council approved it 9-0. Tonight we were at the House Finance Subcommittee and Tom stayed and when Tom arrived tonight he stated they voted to approve. We are now poised to have a question before the voters in November to support our health and safety issue in the amount of \$5M. We have \$3M, this \$5M will give us \$8M and we have identified \$11M that we need. We will have to inform the public that 75% of what we spend is reimbursable.

Mr. Conlon: It still has to go before the Senate Finance Committee, but there were no issues in the House and it shouldn't be an issue.

Mrs. Cylke: Our Stage II Facilities Plan was submitted to RIDE for approval. It is then submitted to the Regents and once approved there we will have access to those funds.

X New Business-Action Item(s)

c. FY13 Budget Adjustments to Reflect Budget Reduction Deficit Plan and PS & I Grant

Mrs. Cylke: We have for you the changes from the April 26th meeting. Two significant changes have occurred.

- 1) We received \$184,000.00 from RIDE which is that PS & I Grant.**
- 2) At the last School Committee meeting you approved the City's deficit reduction plan.**

In our original budget the City had indicated that we would be receiving \$428,000.00 Maintenance of Effort. That number was reduced to \$150,000.00 in year's one and two and it goes to \$500,000.00 in year's three, four and five in our budget deficit reduction plan. The difference in what we had reported as revenue and the change is about \$278,000.00. We still have to show a balanced budget. We also had to identify the \$184,000.00 PS & I Grant and also identify the shortage of \$278,000.00 Maintenance of Effort.

This budget does not reflect \$1.2M that we anticipate receiving with the Governor's accelerated funding formula. That \$1.2M would be raised by increasing the sales tax on restaurant food. We don't anticipate that going through. The third quarter revenue report indicates that Rhode Island has \$62M more than anticipated at this point in the year. That's a good indication that this funding formula is accelerated and we would receive an additional \$1.2M.

\$2,193,705 Gross budgeted Revenue Greater than Expenditures

(155,575) Elementary School Performance Officer

(163,891) Secondary/Transformation School Performance Officer

(653,080) Restoration of 8 Teachers due to Transformation scheduling changes Reduced FTE

(101,022) Technology upgrades – High School Instructional technology

(234,000) E-Rate contribution (to receive \$1.5M)

(79,574) Transformation needs not met by SIG or Federal monies

Added

(31,450) Add 20 days to High School principals' work year

(28,350) Add 20 days to High School asst. principals' work year

(145,751) Supervision – before and after school

(116,801) Increase substitute rate to \$100 per day

(17,124) Increase school clerks work year by 6 days

(22,140) Increase Salaries due to reorganization of duties

Reduced

(24,221) Additional teacher meeting stipends

(141,901) Math Initiative

Reduced

(278,825) Change in Deficit Reduction Plan

Added

(\$2,193,705) Total additions to budget

0 Balanced Budget

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the budget changes to the FY13 Budget; (653,080) Restoration of 8 Teachers due to Transformation scheduling changes Reduced FTE; (79,574) Transformation needs not met by SIG or Federal monies; (22,140) Increase Salaries due to reorganization of duties; (141,901) Math Initiative and (278,825) Change in Deficit Reduction Plan. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Ms. Baker: The SIG Grant Award is \$698,594.00. The PS & I award is \$184,000.00. From our Title I funds, School Improvement (a) is \$26,000.00. Title I A is \$16,300.00. Title II is \$19,050.00 and Race to the Top is \$374,249.00.

Mrs. Cylke: Our original allocation for transformation from Race to the Top monies was zero. At the time we signed on for this money none of our schools were in transformation. Once Tolman and Shea were listed as PLAS Schools we were informed by RIDE that they would infuse some of that money into the grant.

Ms. Nordquist: The Title I money, is that new Title I money or money that was formally being used to fund something else?

Ms. Mercer: The Title I A is money is negligible. It is money that is already built in and broke out for the high schools. The Title I (a) is money that will expire in September and we haven't received it yet and we won't until the waivers go through.

Ms. Nordquist: So there wasn't anything taken away from anything else?

Ms. Mercer: No.

Mr. Tenreiro: There are schools that went through this process that didn't get any SIG money at all. We should be positive that we received one of the highest amounts of money in the state.

Ms. Baker: Out of the local budget is \$946,365.00 and that includes those numbers for the school performance officers, the additional FTE's, the additional days worked for the high school principals and assistants.

d. School Committee Policies – Approval of Format

Dr. Tim Ryan: In your packet there are a couple of things to consider.

The first policy, roman number one is the opening policy of your book. Many school boards adopted the National School Boards Association model and that's where those letters come from (i.e., BAA, BCC). The school committee policies range in several broad categories:

I. School Committee Responsibilities

II. Concept of Administration

III. Operations

IV. Curriculum

V. Students

Also I looked at why have this policy if the State already has this.

What is its purpose? What is the legal precedence establishing this?

The first is a re-write of your existing policy in that format. The next four are State requirements under the Department of Education; the Basic Education Plan (BEP) and the Code of Conduct. The Code of Professional Conduct is very important because if this policy is passed and someone on the staff behaves in a way that is not professional, if there is to be disciplinary action and it is to go to the labor board all you have is pass practice.

If this format is acceptable with you I can take those policies that are required such as your wellness policy and anti-bullying policy and reformat them and bring them back for a first reading. Start the process and have them done over the next several months and have them on the web site.

Ms. Bonollo: Which one would you work on first?

Dr. Ryan: I would probably blend them. Look at what could quickly be blended and format those into administration that can be articulated into law. Then go to legislative policies that have been required by legislative action at the end of the session and draft those and have those ready for a reading too.

Mrs. Cylke: Does the Committee like the format of stating the purpose of the policy first; what the position is and then referencing each policy with the legal statute?

Mr. Coughlin: We're by law mandated to follow the BEP. Why do we need a policy that says we're going to follow the State Law which we're mandated we're going to follow in the first place? If we're going to introduce verbiage that's different, then what is that particular section of the BEP calls for specifically? Are we going to create some kind of gap between the BEP and the policy and give someone wiggle room to say, we adhered to your policy even though we did not adhere to the BEP?

Dr. Ryan: To answer your first question, I did share these with your attorney, Mr. Robinson and he did feel this is way to go as well.

David Abbott from the Department of Education, who is an attorney, has made this recommendation for districts. He has recommended that districts take the BEP, Code of Professional Conduct and the Concept of Administration and reiterate those into your policies. Mr. Robinson agrees with him.

The BEP has not changed. Most of the policies will be re-writes and updates of your existing policies.

Mr. Coughlin: If we're just going to repeat the language, why are we going there in the first place? When the late Mr. McDonald put together the last policy manual, he just cut and pasted the General Laws. The problem is the General Law can change. The policy manual is not changing with the General Law and I'm afraid we can get into the same situation. So if we're going to point to the BEP, why not just point to the BEP?

Dr. Ryan: I understand what you are saying and I'm following the lead of Commissioner Abbott and the Attorney. If there is a preference to keeping it general, we can do that.

Mr. Tenreiro: I think it's a high level point for LEA's to take regulation to codify that as their own policy and it adds a degree of their own leverage.

Ms. Bonollo: The policy that you are going to make changes to, are you going to let us know what you are taken out?

Dr. Ryan: Absolutely. This is your policy.

Mrs. Cylke: I think it is duplicitous to take State required policy and put it in our district policy. I think one benefit is any member of the public instead of having to refer to the state statute and look up the BEP it's all in one place. When our legislative session ends we have to have a formal presentation about what has changed that impacts school departments.

Mr. Araujo: So all future policies will follow that format?

Dr. Ryan: Yes.

e. School Committee Resolution Opposing Governor Chaffee's "Highly Distressed Intervention Act"

Mr. Tenreiro: What you have before you is a Resolution opposing Governor Chaffee's "Highly Distressed Intervention Act." Simply put in times of economic stress there is money that is there and possible for the City of Pawtucket with this legislation but when you look underneath it, it really takes away the School Committee's ability to protect the kids.

I'll point out a few things. It says that the School Committee understands that the City of Pawtucket is in financial distress and it appreciates the seriousness of that and welcomes the opportunity to realize some savings. However, we believe the proposed act is an inappropriate means by which to resolve the financial stress and it grants municipal officials extraordinary powers to resolve the fiscal distress and it gives those municipal officials the ability for instance to suspend their statutory requirements pertaining to school operations such as the certified school nurse teachers, bus monitors and transportation to non-public schools. The Committee would find that objectionable in that it deprives Pawtucket children services that the General Assembly has already deemed to be essential to the health, safety and well being for all the students in this State.

It also finds the potential suspension of those services objectionable because it will fall disproportionately among Rhode Island's poorest communities.

We also whereas, in question the constitutionality of this legislation. It may be ineffective in achieving real savings.

It also says that Mayors will have line item veto authority on the school's budget, to approve budgetary changes throughout the year

and to approve all contracts. That can potentially impede the School Committee's ability to provide services that are fully responsive to the needs of children. The Mayors authority over the school department's budget may effectuate the educational policies that are designed to achieve the necessary educational reforms.

It may impede our ability to provide mandatory services such as special education. Furthermore, it is somewhat superfluous because there's a degree over authority and contracts already.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve to oppose the "Highly Distressed Intervention Act" Resolution. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: Where did this resolution come from?

Mr. Tenreiro: This was drafted by Vicki Bejma.

Ms. Nordquist: It did not come from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees?

Mr. Tenreiro: No.

Ms. Nordquist: I think the needs of the students have already been impeded, unfortunately, because the City Council is now involved with the negotiations of our contracts.

Ms. Bonollo: To whom is this going to be submitted?

Mr. Tenreiro: I was just going to add that.

Mr. Spooner moved to amend his original motion to strike the repetitive paragraph on page one and to include "Resolved: That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Roll call

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-no; Mr. Noonan-yes;
Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes
Motion passed six in favor; one opposed.**

XI Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: I want to publically thank Mr. John Lalli . He has been a substitute principal at Tolman High School and I think the staff would say he has been fantastic. He went to the trouble to contact the Marines and submit an application for both Tolman and Shea, but they currently don't have funding for it, but we are on the waiting list for JROTC.

We'll be meeting this week with Mr. John Simmons who is the executive director of RIPEC. He is doing the efficiency study for the City. So I wanted to meet with him and Carolyn Dias, the Chief Financial Officer from RIDE so they have a clear understanding of what Steve shared tonight.

Next Wednesday we have a professional development day for our secondary schools that will be for our junior high school staff members and senior high schools. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Guskey from the University of Kentucky will be the keynote speaker. He is the most renowned educator on grading policies. He'll be at Jenks at 10:30 AM and welcome you to attend.

XII Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: I wanted to congratulate my daughter, Kayla who graduated from Sawyer School last month and becoming a medical assistant. I'm very proud of her. I'd like to thank everybody who came tonight. Have a good evening.

Ms. Bonollo: I'd like to congratulate the Slater Mock Trial Team again.

Also to the efforts of the staff and students who put on the arts display last week, they did an excellent job. To the six students from Pawtucket that were awarded the 2012 Civics Leadership Award. This is a nice turnout. Thank you and have a good night.

Mr. Coughlin: Good evening. Have a great weekend.

Mr. Noonan: Thank you all for coming.

Ms. Nordquist: I had the privilege of speaking at the NECAP Dinner at Potter-Burns and I want to thank Dr. McWilliams for that. It was a great night. I know the schools throughout the district are putting on these awards to benefit the children and I think it was very enjoyable and you had to see the look on the children's faces.

This Thursday the Tolman softball team will be playing St. Ray's at 7:00 PM at Slater Park and it is a "strike out cancer" game and there are a lot of them like this going on around the State. There will be raffles and they will be selling t-shirts to support cancer research. The girls won today, they beat Moses Brown and with that win they captured the Division II title. Congratulations.

Mr. Spooner: Good night.

Mr. Tenreiro: Please see the clerk before you leave.

XIII Adjournment

Mr. Noonan moved to adjourn. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 6/12/12